

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0193] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0193] Referring next to FIGS. 6 and 7, there will be described the nature of the subcarrier signals used in the communication system 1. FIG. 6 is a graph indicating a frequency distribution of the reflected subcarrier signals which are simultaneously received by the interrogator 2 from the endpoint devices 3a-3c and demodulated. In the graph of FIG. 6, the intensity of the subcarrier signals is taken along the ordinate while the frequency of the subcarrier signals is taken along the abscissa. As described above by reference to FIG. 4, the frequency band of the subcarrier signal is determined by the band determining portion 43 such that the center frequency of the frequency band increases with a decrease in the distance between the interrogator 2 and the endpoint devices 3a-3c. In the present embodiment, the endpoint devices 3a-3c are located such that the endpoint device 3a has the smallest distance from the interrogator 2, and the endpoint device 3b has the largest distance from the interrogator 2, while the endpoint device 3c has an intermediate distance from the interrogator 2, as shown in FIG. 1. In this embodiment, therefore, the subcarrier signal from the nearest endpoint device 3a has the ~~lowest frequency fs2~~highest frequency fs1, and the subcarrier signal from the most distant endpoint device 3b has the ~~highest frequency fs1~~lowest frequency fs2, while the subcarrier signal from the intermediate endpoint device 3c has an intermediate frequency fs3. The intensity of the subcarrier signal decreases with an increase in the distance to the interrogator 2. The subcarrier signal has a higher harmonic the frequency of which is an odd-number multiple of the fundamental frequency. For example, the subcarrier signal transmitted from the most distant endpoint device 3b and having the frequency fs2 has a higher harmonic having a frequency 3f2 which is three times as high as the frequency fs2. Even if the subcarrier signal having the higher harmonic 3fs2 is superimposed on the subcarrier signal transmitted from the nearest endpoint device 3a and

having the frequency f_{s1} , the subcarrier signal having the frequency. f_{s1} can be recognized since it has a sufficiently higher intensity than the higher harmonic having the frequency $3f_{s2}$.